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LOU SIMOPOULOS



BRUNO ZOVKO
JACOB KAGI



EDDIE KRNEVIC



JEREMY O'NEILL
IVAN ANDREEVSKI



RICHARD SUCKSMITH



GAGANDEEP SINGH
BRUCE DARNELL



RICHARD BARTOLO
LACHLAN TAYLOR



DARRYL KENNEDY



GEORGE STOGIANNOU
IVAN ANDREEVSKI



INSIDE THIS WEEK... Boo, Katsa & Tsigan GRAND FINAL SOUVENIR EDITION

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FFV Director, Chris Nikou, with Ashburton's Annabelle Gibney.



Western Suburbs coach, Mike Chatzitronas, accepts the Men's Gold Medal on behalf of Terry Antoniadis from FFV President, Tony Dunkerley, and CEO, Mark Rendell.



Ashy's Antoinette Michail with Matilda, Melissa Barbieri.

TERRY AND BELINDA STRIKE GOLD!

Western Suburbs veteran Terry Antoniadis and Heidelberg United striker Belinda Pannella have taken out Victorian football's highest individual award, the Gold Medal, as the Best and Fairest Players in the Foxtel Cup and Womens Premier League respectively.

The two champions were toasted at a gala celebration last Monday night at the Grand Hyatt in Melbourne.

It was a surprise win for 33 year old Antoniadis who began his senior career with 'Suburbs some 14 seasons ago. The newest member of the exclusive Gold Medal club was critical to his side's impressive season that saw them finish ninth in the Foxtel Cup after gaining promotion in 2006.

An emotional Pannella acknowledged her team mates, coaching staff and young son when accepting the award. The striker, who has found the back of the net 24 times through out the season to finish runner up in the Golden Boot, now turns her focus to Sunday's Grand Final when her Heidelberg side looks to break Box Hill's four-year strangle hold on the WPL Championship.

Accepting the award on behalf of Antoniadis, who is overseas, Western Suburbs coach Michael Chatzitronas talked of the personal adversity the club stalwart had

overcome through out the season.

Antoniadis polled 27 votes through to win from AIS young gun James Holland who finished on 24 votes. South Melbourne's Ramazan Tavsanoglu finished with 23 votes and Richmond's Graham Hockless collected 21.

Pannella finished with 30 votes for the campaign, a staggering eight clear of second placed Seyma Erenli of Ashburton. Eastern Lions' Natasha Haines, who was an early front runner, finished equal with Keilor Park's Katia Tavoraro on 20 votes.

Another 14 awards were handed out through out the night. Football Federation Victoria wishes to extend its congratulations to all the winners on Gold Medal Night 2007.

THE HONOURS BOARD

Hoar-Melvin Award
(Best Junior Female presented by MILO)
Kelly Eaton
Sandringham WSC

Jane Oakley Award
(Best NTC Player presented by MILO)
Annabel Gibney
Ashburton WSC

Jones-Martin Award Best Youth Female
(presented by Victorian Multicultural Commission)
Enza Barilla
Eltham North WSC

Weinstein Medal
(Best Junior Male presented by Melb Victory)
Fabio DiLizia
Victorian Institute of Sport

Referee Development Award
(presented by Covo)
Shaun Evans

Referee of the Year
(presented by Covo)
Jim Ouliaris

Bill Fleming Award
(Media Player of the Year presented by TVH)
Tony Sterjovski
Preston Lions

Foxtel Cup Under 21 Player of the Year
(presented by Vic Multicultural Comm)
James Holland
AIS

WPL Goalkeeper of the Year
(presented by Foxtel)
Antoinette Michail
Ashburton WSC

Foxtel Cup Goalkeeper of the Year
(presented by Foxtel)
Steve Tilovski
Fawkner Blues

WPL Top Goal Scorer
(presented by NIKE)
Annabelle Gibney
Ashburton WSC

Foxtel Cup Top Goal Scorer
(presented by NIKE)
Esala Masi
Oakleigh Cannons

WPL Coach of the Year
(presented by Covo)
Bobby McGuinness
Eltham North WFC

Foxtel Cup Coach of the Year
(presented by Covo)
Goran Lozanovski
Preston Lions

WPL Gold Medal
Belinda Pannella
Heidelberg United

Foxtel Cup Gold Medal
Terry Antoniadis
Western Suburbs



Sandringham's Kelly Eaton with the Hoar-Melvin Award.



Heidelberg's Belinda Pannella was voted as the WPL Gold Medal winner.



James Holland of the AIS took out the VPL Under 21 Player of the Year.



Eltham North's Enza Barilla with the Jones-Martin Award.



BSW's Alan Clark and C31's Ross Alatsas with Bill Fleming winner Tony Sterjovski of Preston Lions.

FFV Director Nick Monteleone presents Preston's Goran Lozanovski with the Coach of the Year Award.



FOXTEL CUP GRAND FINAL



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SYDNEY FC
0 - 1
MELBOURNE
VICTORY

By Mike Salter
in Sydney

GROUND OUT VICTORY!

Melbourne squeezes past 10-man Sydney

This week's line-up

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Melbourne Victory continued their unbeaten start to the season with a somewhat unconvincing 1-0 victory over a 10-man Sydney FC at the Sydney Football Stadium.

In the end, it took a good cross from substitute Adrian Caceres and some astute off-the-ball movement from Danny Allsopp to break the home side's resistance in the 81st minute of the match.

Branko Culina made one change to the side that had beaten Newcastle at the same ground a week earlier; club captain Tony Popovic returned to the defence, with Brendan Santalab dropping out. Ernie Merrick was denied the services of both Leigh Broxham and Daniel Piorkowski due to injury, and he replaced these two with Carlos Hernandez and Steve Pantelidis respectively.

Adam Casey was the key figure of the opening period of the match, making a number of incisive runs down the Sydney right. There were, however, few clear chances in the first twenty minutes; a sharp cross-shot from Leandro Love after five minutes was held easily by Clint Bolton, while Michael Theoklitos was not seriously tested early on.

On 25 minutes came the incident that turned the game. Referee Mark Shield had already given every indication that he would deal firmly with any misdemeanours, flashing a number of early yellow cards; at the end of one midfield melee, a nasty high challenge on Steve Pantelidis earned Sydney FC's influential midfielder Steve Corica a straight red card.

Needless to say, the away side dominated possession from that point. Yet the Melbourne midfield were finding it hard to get their striking threesome into the game; twice around the half-hour mark Danny Allsopp was played through, but ruled offside. Sydney FC, meanwhile, relied on the endeavour of Ruben Zadkovich and the passing of Juninho to fight their corner, but their upfield excursions were few.

Melbourne finally fashioned themselves two chances towards the end of the half. Allsopp, for once breaking free in his inside-left channel, whipped a dangerous ball across goal only for Popovic to clear adroitly; then, in the final minute of the

opening period, Leandro Love skipped past Popovic and sent a shot at goal from an acute angle. Bolton positioned himself well to block the shot.

Sydney changed their formation slightly at the break; Mark Rudan moved over to the right-back position, allowing Casey to join the midfield proper. Melbourne continued to make most of the running, but the poor crossing of Matthew Kemp, the general ineffectiveness of Carlos Hernandez, and the failure to play their forward line in behind the Sydney defence meant the eleven men rarely threatened.

Sensing that his side needed more width, Ernie Merrick replaced Hernandez with Adrian Caceres on 63 minutes. Although the ex-Perth Glory winger would initially find Rudan a formidable stumbling block, he was to play a decisive role in the eventual breakthrough.

Kevin Muscat, having a fine game, sent a free kick wide on 64 minutes. Seven minutes later, Juninho, struggling with his ankle after an earlier challenge from Leandro Love, made way for Patrick, in a daring substitution by Branko Culina.

The momentum appeared to be turning. Sydney began to come forward in greater numbers, and Alex Brosque grazed the post with a free kick shortly after Kaz Patafta had replaced Joseph Keenan. Yet, just when Sydney seemed to be back in the contest, the long-awaited Melbourne goal arrived.

A smooth passing move through the middle reached Caceres on the left; his looping cross was met by Allsopp, who had made a clever run to the far post. Although Bolton got a hand to Allsopp's side-footed strike, he couldn't prevent it from hitting the back of the net.

Culina emptied his bench. Casey and Terry McFlynn made way for Ufuk Talay and Brendan Santalab, but the fresh legs, and all Sydney's desperate running in the final minutes, were in vain. Talay did manage one dangerous deep cross from the right, but Roddy Vargas was there to head clear, under pressure from Alex Brosque.

The one goal was enough, and Ernie Merrick gained his second victory at the SFS in successive seasons.

Sydney FC: Bolton; Rudan, Milligan, Popovic; Casey (Talay), Zadkovich, McFlynn (Santalab), Fyfe; Corica, Juninho (Patrick); Brosque.

Melbourne Victory: Theoklitos; Kemp, Vargas, Pantelidis, Keenan (Patafta); Hernandez (Caceres), Muscat, Brebner; Leandro Love, Thompson, Allsopp.

Sydney FC Player Ratings:

Bolton: 7/10. Commanded his area well and made one good save. Perhaps partly at fault for the goal.

Rudan: 9/10. Sydney FC's man of the match, without doubt. Made a number of vital challenges, and adapted surprisingly well to the right-back role.

Milligan: 6/10. Fairly solid, but outshone by his more experienced colleagues on this occasion.

Popovic: 7/10. Easily his best game yet for Sydney FC. Sadly, his lack of pace is still a concern.

Casey: 6/10. Had an influential time of it early in the game, but disappeared in the second half.

McFlynn: 5/10. Battled hard in midfield as always, but his passing was poor.

Zadkovich: 7/10. In good form of late. Looked the Sydney player most likely to create something on the break.

Juninho: 6/10. For once, very quiet.

Corica: 4/10. Did little in the time he was involved in the game, and let his team down with a very ill-advised challenge.

Brosque: 7/10. Worked like a Trojan as always, and Sydney's reduced numbers meant that he lacked the support he would have liked.

Substitutes:

Patrick: 5/10. Made little impact.

Santalab: N/A. Only on the field for five minutes.

Talay: N/A. Ditto.

For all other
A-league details please turn to
page 17-18



Sydney's Alex Brosque and Victory's Steve Pantelidis go head to head in the derby clash on Saturday night at the Sydney Football Stadium.

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By George Egonidis
 Photos by Daniel Flis &
 John Punshon

BERGERS HALT INTER DOMINATION

Heidelberg captures first WPL title

Heidelberg United is the 2007 WPL champion after holding out five-time winner Box Hill Inter in a gripping grand final at Bob Jane Stadium on Sunday.

United looked home and hosed after pulling away to a 3-0 lead early in the second half, but a gallant Inter comeback made for a nerve-wracking final 10 minutes; the 'Bergers hanging on for a famous 3-2 win and their first WPL title.

Box Hill was far from disgraced against the minor premiers, enjoying the upper hand for large parts of the game and showing enormous character to almost push the match into extra time.

Heidelberg's Katie Neville was the busier of the two goalkeepers in the early stages of the game as Inter went close to netting the opener three times inside 15 minutes.

Louisa Bisby had an early sighter, striking an audacious free-kick from an acute angle which cannoned off Neville's near-post.

And moments later, Bisby won the race to Anthea Vardakas' high ball to the top of the penalty area but crashed her first-time volley wide.

Amanda Lawless should have scored when she outpaced the Heidelberg defence to find herself one-on-one with Neville – but she missed to the left with her fierce low drive.

Midway through the half, United

turned the game on its head and made Inter pay for its profligacy up front with two quick goals against the run of play.

Sarah Groenewald scored the first, stealing in behind her marker to collect a long cross-field ball and knocking past the advancing Helen Klerides.

And on the half hour, an unmarked Meghan Archer rose highest to nod home Lucy Balta's corner and make the score 2-0.

The buoyant 'Bergers could have added a couple more before the half was out – Meagan Thornton denied by a brilliant Klerides save at close range and some desperate Box Hill defending clearing another goal-bound United effort off the line.

The interval did nothing to halt Heidelberg's momentum with Christina Cisterna calling Klerides into action soon after the restart to block a gilt-edged one-on-one chance.

And the 'Bergers looked to have wrapped up the title when Sonia Romano capitalised on a Klerides error – the Box Hill custodian spilling Belinda Pannella's regulation cross into the path of the United substitute, who bundled the ball over the line despite the efforts of the close-checking Inter rearguard.

But Bisby handed Inter a lifeline when, two minutes later, she rifled in a low free-kick from 30-yards which squeezed under the diving Neville to roll inches over



Heads up! A Box hill makes a stecth to head the ball yesterday.

the goalline.

And it was 3-2 with only 10 minutes left to play when Bisby volleyed home Jess Humble's cross from inside six-yards.

Box Hill poured forward in the dying stages – Georgia Koutrouvelis going closest with a high strike – as the reigning

champions refused to surrender their title without a fight.

But it was to be Heidelberg's day, the 'Bergers erasing the heart-ache of last year's grand final loss to claim their first WPL title.



Above: Heidelberg United 's Coach John Lioupas and captain, Louisa Bisby, hoist aloft the Foxtel WPL Cup and break Box Hill's 5 year stranglehold on the competition.

Left: Action from Heidelberg's triumph over Box Hill Inter in the Victorian WPL Grand Final yesterday.

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**WHITTLESEA
ZEBRAS**

1 - 3



**PRESTON
LIONS**

By Addy Wetzler

Photos by Daniel Flis &
John Punshon

PRESTON IN A LEAGUE OF THEIR OWN!

Lions maul Zebras in VPL Grand Final

Preston Lions have claimed the ultimate prize in Victorian club football, securing the Foxtel Cup with a classy 3-1 victory over the Whittlesea Zebras.

In ideal conditions at Bob Jane Stadium, a partisan Lions' crowd of close to 6000 were on hand to celebrate Preston's third championship, some five years after they last tasted success in the 2002 season.

Carrying the undeniable tag of 'favourites' heading into the match didn't appear to trouble Preston, who shook off any sign of nerves in the opening twenty seconds; winning a corner following some link-up play between Tony Sterjovski and Blaze Georgiovski. A second corner, some two minutes later, saw the Lions take the lead; Sterjovski's pinpoint corner kick finding Zoran Petrevski, who headed home past the flapping Ken Gerohristodolou in the Whittlesea goal.

Sterjovski, fresh from claiming the Bill Fleming award for Media Player of the Year, was in sparkling form, and came close to doubling the advantage close on twenty minutes; worrying the Whittlesea defence out of possession before turning a defender and firing his shot straight at the sprawling Gerohristodolou.

Minutes later, and somewhat against the run of play, former Adelaide United defender Kristian Rees restored parity with a looping header; the mid-season arrival connecting with a Josip Kozic free kick to leave Savas Ozdemir frozen in the Preston goal and present the small pocket of Whittlesea supporters in the stadium with some temporary joy.

It took just seven minutes for joy to turn to despair, Petrevski scoring his second goal in the 31st minute following some clever play from Sterjovski. A cross-cum-shot from Jonathan Munoz was tipped away by the luckless Zebras stopper, only for Petrevski to appear at the back post to head home from point blank range.

On the verge of half time, young gun Hamlet Armenian came close to bringing his side back on level terms for the interval, only to see his desperate header crash into the crossbar.

No doubt fresh from a Peter Ollerton spray during the break, the young Whittlesea side came out firing, determined to repay the faith shown in them by a manager who had inspired a brand of football which had seen the Zebras lose only one match in almost three and a half months.

With the talented Kozic gathering a myriad of touches and looking dangerous from set pieces, Whittlesea came close to finding a way back into the contest but efforts from Tex Apostolikas and Greg Lombardo were denied, while at the other end Petrevski scuffed a golden opportunity for a hat-trick.

As the crowd anxiously counted down the minutes until the final whistle, substitute Igor Arsovki ensured the vast majority would leave the stadium happy, tapping home for his third goal of the season after some tremendous forward pressure by fellow substitute Nicholas Lozarevski.

An extremely positive Peter Ollerton was full of praise for his Whittlesea side post match. 'I'm disappointed with the result, but far from disappointed overall. We had six players under twenty-one [years of age] and at the end of the day that [lack of] experience was the difference. Even before the game I wasn't confident, I thought that for the last five of six weeks we'd already played our [grand] final. But I can't criticise anybody, they've really done marvelously well.'

Having recently signed on as Zebras manager for the 2008 season, Ollerton was quick to point out the difficulty in taking over a team mid-season. 'I can tell you that the side I put



As has been the case all year, Preston lead from the front yesterday and never looked back. Tony "Sterling" Sterjovski breezes past Zebras Eric Vassiliadis.

out next season will be my side, and not a side I inherited', asserted Ollerton.

His counterpart, former Australian representative Goran Lozanovski, was understandably jubilant at the scope of Preston's achievement.

'It's been a fantastic ride and I've enjoyed every moment of it, with all the heartache throughout the year this has just been a fantastic achievement. Our work rate has been good all season and it's been like that right throughout the squad, every time somebody has had to step up they've performed well.... that goes for all the young guys in the squad.'

As he soaked up the result post match, the ever modest two-goal hero Zoran Petrevski paid tribute to the Lions' tremendous fan base. 'At the start of the day, I said to Goran [coach Lozanovski] I'd take a premiership over a goal any day, but to score two and win the [Jimmy Rooney] medal is just a bonus. A big credit goes out to the supporters, they've been our twelfth man day in and day out and they travel everywhere with us, this cup belongs to them.'

Zebras: K.Gerohristodolou, R.Antoniadis, K.rees, A.Drakos, M.pistininzi (E.Vassiliadis 59'), J.Kozic, G.Lombardo, J.Sherman, S.Martin, T.Apostolakis (S.Drakis 74'), H.Armenian (L.Satilli 83').
Coach: P.Ollerton

Lions: S.Ozdemir, J.Munoz, S.Pir, T.Sterjovski (M.Miskaas 83'), Z.Petrevski, J.Sapazovski (N.Lozarevski 73'), M.Gasparis, S.Pace, P.Siveski, B.Georgevski (i.Arsovski 65'), L.Anastasiou.
Coach: G.Lozanovski

Referee: Jim Ouliaris
Crowd: 6000

Man of the Match
Zoran Petrevski
(Preston Lions)

PLAYER RATINGS

PRESTON LIONS

39. Savas OZDEMIR – 7 – always a steady custodian, caught in no man's land to concede the single goal, otherwise a solid performance throughout
3. Jonathan MUNOZ – 8 – constant threat down the left flank, brilliant first half but appeared to tire as the game progressed
6. Serdar PIR – 7 – workmanlike performance, quick to close down and frustrate opposition
11. Tony STERJOVSKI – 9 – dangerous throughout, involved in two of the Preston goals and terrorised Whittlesea with his pace and frequent forward thrusts
15. Zoran PETREVSKI – 9 – two goal hero for the Lions, worthy Rooney Medalist
10. Johnny SAPAZOVSKI – 7 – solid effort; tackled hard all day
8. Marino GASPARIS – 7 – ran hard throughout; quick to close down opponents
17. Steven PACE – 7 – dependable throughout; another sterling showing
21. Pece SIVESKI – 8 – showed tremendous leadership; a rock in midfield
40. Blaze GEORGIOVSKI – 7 – relatively quiet game but linked up well with Sterjovski before being replaced by Miskas
5. Les ANASTASIOU – 8 – marshaled the defence with customary steadfastness

Subs:

20. Aleksandar STOJANOVSKI
9. Nicholas LOZAREVSKI – 6 – worked wonders to set up the clinching goal
23. Stephen MASALKOVSKI
18. Igor ARSOVSKI – 8 – sealed the result with his late goal

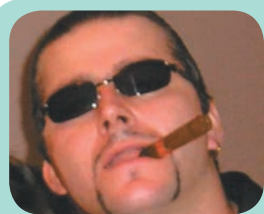
12. Michael MISKAS – 6 – cameo appearance to cap an impressive season

WHITTLESEA ZEBRAS

1. Ken GEROHRISTODOLOU – 4 – uncharacteristically nervous performance; numerous poor clearances compounded by the three goals conceded
4. Ross ANTONIADIS – 6 – solid when the ball was on the ground, but failed to deal with Preston's aerial threat
17. Kristian REES – 7 – will be disappointed to have conceded two headed goals, despite finding the back of the net himself
11. Ari DRAKOS – 6 – ran himself into the ground but was unable to stay with his man on a number of crucial occasions
18. Mark PISTININZI – 7 – showed good pace and composure down the right flank but consistently frustrated by tight marking by the Preston defenders
10 Josip KOZIC – 8 – the 'diamond in the rough' – displayed his array of talent but lacked support
5. Greg LOMBARDO – 6 – improved gradually as the game wore on
2. James SHERMAN – 5 – limited impact, well beaten on the day
16. Steve MARTIN – 7 – pushed forward well in the second half, disappointing opening forty-five
9. Tex APOSTOLIKAS – 6 – came to life in the second half and applied tremendous forward-defensive pressure
7. Hamlet ARMENIAN – 5 – slow to settle, denied the space to utilise his explosive pace

Subs:

20. Dario DI NAPOLI
6. Stelios DRAKOS – 6 – linked up well with Armenian, but to minimal effect
13. Luca SANTILLI – 6 – late appearance, limited opportunity to impress
8. Eric VASSILIADIS – 5 – good pace but unable to penetrate



TSIGAN'S TSIGAR



THE RECKONING

Thank goodness that's over.

10 months of frustration, condensation, precipitation, adaptation and emancipation, all neatly packaged and bundled into a 90 minute extravaganza, with the ability to thrill a dill and watched earnestly by the Bill.

Grand Final week had everything a fairy story should encapsulate. After a Gold Medal shindig which saw no one get thrown out, no punches snapped and no Led Zeppelin groupies mulled outside reception, the VPL had announced the main players and subsidiaries thereof with no short surprises.

The main highlights were the contrasts in apparel by the femme fatale's. You would never believe for a second, that these were the same women who don the shirts and shorts of a football frenzy fandango, and scratch each other's eyes out on Sundays. The Izzy Miyage brigade was in full swing, and the way yonder cleaves were angling downtown could only leave one to assume some navel warfare was about to transpire.

I couldn't say as much for the blokes who were more content to contend for a few polished moments of drunken stupor and raucous laughter in the toilets. Some shady deals were transpiring betwixt players out of contract, and coaches staying in the loop a tad fruity but nevertheless Rudy.

The scenes between voting were enthralling as a wake, whilst the actual event itself was as vunderba-humbag as time spent with the late great Charles Darwin esq. I'll remind myself next time to bring a box full of goodies, namely whoopee cushions, dry bull plop (just add water), electric hand buzzers and egg-farts-in-a-can. You want this party start it right. The service was rank arena. The wine was malt vinegar. The beer was blech. The clichés ripped by compares/MC's were tacky. The speeches by winners and grinners all but re-runs from the past 20



Memories are made of this!
Zoran carrying the Double.

years. WHERE IS THE BANANARAMA? Life is a cabaret ol' chum, and this ol' black magic had no-one in a spell.

No one ripped a fart joke, or took the mick out of anyone. No abuse. No security raids. No cabinet intercourse between VPL and WPL. To top it off, the players opted to go Crown for after dinner activity, rather than sleazy strip clubs. For shame. For the faithful few who threw down the gauntlet and ripped off their gear at Hosies, I salute you.

To protect the criminally insane, I will not name the boys who have entered the annals of infamy, lest they get kicked out of their respective clubs and their "goodie" label is besmirched. To the lovely WPL lassies who showed more crack than seam, you will be approached next season for the promise of page three norks and pitch reports. Who cares if you score? You will achieve infamy, and after all, isn't that what football is about?

GRAND FINALE

Geepers creepers there was a whole lotta red.

Normally, Bob Jane is set in scenes of blue and white. This day was anything but normal. The fans in red put paid to anything that was remotely related to "opposition". Police were battered. The WPL Champions, Heidelberg, were booed in the clubrooms whilst celebrating their victory. The Australian National Anthem was sung over, mistaken for another country's. People were being called all sorts of names reserved for pedophiles and hard core criminals. Bar staff were threatened and lambasted with choppy grammar and greenback stipend to cover a single beer. Baggage handlers were cat calling 60 year old grandmothers. R.O.C.K in the U.S.A and Drakos Bros with the cats in the cradle and the silver spoon.

To fathom a goal being scored in the 3rd minute is beyond anyone's estimation, except in the mind of the one scoring it. Zoran Petrevski went to bed Saturday night envisioning that very scenario. The instinct of a hundred whelps took over this young gun, and the header he buried to get the Lions up put paid to the truth, that he is an earner and a definitive match winner. Sterjovski spanked a volley o' yoy just a wide, and argle barge foo-ferah the bell nearly tolled. Whittlesea were vastly underdone by their inexperience, and the holes in their ozone were exposed frequently and efficiently. The Lions should've been up by three within the first 20 minutes, but true to a Zebra's instinct, she kicked and bucked when the pressure got too intense. Did I just say she? Well, they played like a pack of sheilas for the first 20 minutes....C'MON IT'S A GRANNIE!!!

The play settled into some great touches, and scritti politti for the midfield from both teams. Got a bit repetitive, repetitive, repetitive, until a Zebra canter counter attack ended up with a freaky free kick, which doth sailed and nestled into



Bob Jane Happy Hour

the white nets of Preston. But the joy was short lived, and shaghai'd by the Petra of Zorangstad. Up he diddled and poked number two, by gum its funny how the tide can come in so fast. One minute you're crabbing in waist high water, the next minute it's up to your neck, and the crabs are nipping your eyeballs. The Zebras could find no rhythm or stride, thus their giddy yap was a trundle trot. The story of the first stanza, scene four was pretty much summed up in the Lion's roar. Surely Ollie would have to pull more than all stops at the break to ensure this one wasn't going to elude him.

AND NOW FOR THE BAR SHAMBLES

Fancy waiting at the bar for 14 minutes at a football game, waiting to get served? No, it's not the Maracana. No it's not Old Trafford. No, it's not even the MCG. It's Bob Jane shambles, with 4 bar staff all pouring beer into plastic cups with no idea about common sense or practicality. Who's on 1st? Where's on 2nd? What's on 3rd? Pity we couldn't find Abbott and Costello to make the scene a true comedy. 4 barstaff to cater 6 thousand people. Now, THAT'S ECONOMICS!!! THAT'S ENTERTAINMENT!!

45 FOR GLORY

The Zebras must've realized at half time yakkety yak that this was a) the last game of the season, b) it is a Grand Final c) all of the above. Mit mucho gusto professional burrito, they peppered the Lion's den to find the a) equalizer b) winner c) all of the above...if it wasn't for the little dude with the ponytail standing in the Preston goals, Dur Zebraschnaffen bin scoring ze Tor, and doing crazy runs around the ground with the Guernsey wrapped around the noggin'. World class save in a World class game. (hmmppffiffhahahahaHAHAHAHA) No, seriously, top save.

Petrevski wanted that medal. He was all over the ground like malaria in Angola. VPL boogey man Eric the Vas got

a run with 30 to go, and made his intentions clear with a strike from 1.3 km away. Just wide....of Kerferd Rd. Zebras were making a meal out of the mountain which was a molehill, and the chances to bring the kettle to the boil were starting to whistle Dixie. Indeed, the Coldplay rush of blood to the head, was only ending up killing the seagulls hovering above.

But all fairy tales come to an end. Sometimes, Cinderella is mentioned but on this occasion it was all about the Three Bears giving it to Goldilocks who ran away screaming. Preston sealed the deal with a hustle und bustle gimme the ball, or take the money and run goal. A Zebra defensive cock-up, saw the ball stolen in the 6 yard box, slammed across the face, and drilled into the net, leaving a sea of red and yellow fans riding the wave into premiership town. The hoopla that followed was a show of antiquity, coupled with a splash of decadence and seasoned KFC style. Wicked.

Yea verily it was a season definer. A minor become a major. The ethos of pathos, but only if you kapish that it's a long way to the top if you want a sausage roll. For Preston, they feel like the cheese grater. For the Zebra's, that leaves you being the cheese. Every one else that coulda-shoulda-woulda-ya didn't, so get over it, and stop calling me to set you up with chicks. My pimping days are over.

If you are interested in pimping activity, please write to:

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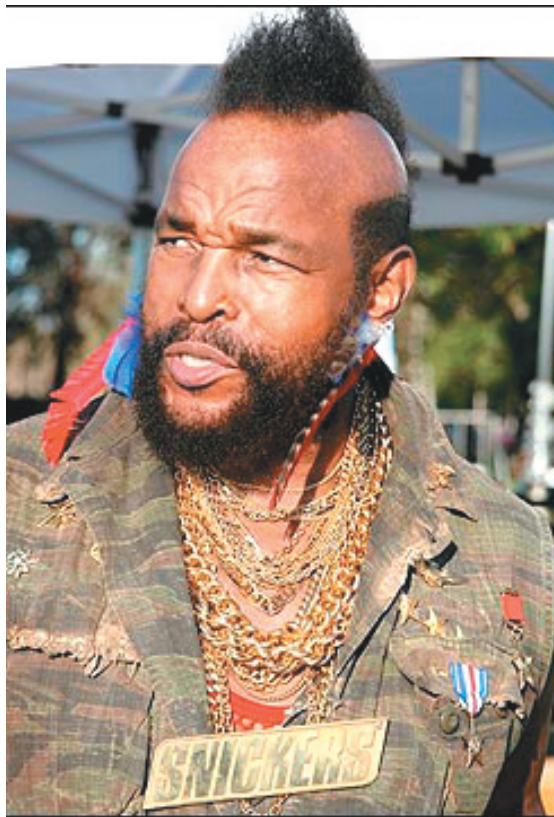
A satirical look at the World of Football according to Mark Boric

So last week I was citing examples of why the FFV are basically useless. I said to be continued, but will not waste another full column on the topic, just a paragraph.

On Monday they held the Gold Medal Night. As of Sunday the full list of votes for all games has yet to appear on the official website. Not the biggest issue in the world, but just another sign of the general lack of competence emanating out of the Darebin mob.

Australia's own Classico, Sydney v Melbourne was on again over the weekend. Once again it was victory for the Victory. A dirty Sydney hack was sent-off, so Sydney felt hard done by. They also threw objects at the match officials at half-time in a manner not seen since South Melbourne v Adelaide City in the '90's. I thought the A League was supposed to rid the game of such scenes?

Brazilian goalkeeper Dida decided to use an incident late in the Celtic-Milan game in which a fan ran onto the field and patted his cheek as a chance to audition for the World Wrestling Entertainment. He chased his attacker for five metres before realising he couldn't catch him. Then he went down



Mr T should give Milan's Dida some of his nuts....fool!

like Springvale White Eagles, hard and fast.

Whilst on keepers, Mark Bosnich is on the comeback trail. He's off the Whizz Fizz and is on a diet too. He is the best keeper Australia has ever produced and it would be a great story if he was successful in returning to top level football.

Congratulations to Preston Lions on taking out the Foxtel Cup. Don't rest on your laurels too much though, as next season the handicapper may give you a minus eight point penalty to make the finals race more interesting. Maybe even more, Leeds United started off minus fifteen in the English League One and have the play-off places within reach already.

And with the Cup handed over and the presentations made, that's pretty much it for the season. See you all again next year, hopefully.

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The 2 day camp will include various facets of the game including technical skills and techniques used at leading academies around the world.

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Eddie Krncevic



DETAILS

Date: Saturday 20th October & Sunday 21st October

Time: 9.30am to 1.30pm both days

Venue: Elcho Park - Gibbons Road Lara
(North Geelong Soccer Club Grounds)

Payment: \$100.00 per player, cost covers both days.
Payment can be sent with your enrolment form or paid on the morning of the first day on the camp. Payment will only be accepted in cash or cash cheque or money order.

On the day: You must register and make payment between 8.00am and 9.00am on the first day of the camp.

Enrolment: Forms must be filled in and received no later than Wednesday the 12th of September. Forms received following this day will not be accepted due to the requirement to finalise participation numbers.

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D.O.B. : _____
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FOXTEL CUP FINAL STANDINGS

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS
Preston Lions	26	14	9	3	44	26	48
Melbourne Knights	26	14	5	7	38	21	47
Whittlesea Zebras	26	14	5	7	35	28	47
Altona Magic	26	13	7	6	34	24	46
Oakleigh Cannons	26	13	5	8	47	33	44
Green Gully Cavaliers	26	11	7	8	37	28	40
South Melbourne	26	10	7	9	39	33	37
Heidelberg Utd	26	10	7	9	32	37	37
Western Suburbs	26	8	11	7	27	25	35
Richmond	26	10	4	12	44	32	34
Fawkner Blues	26	9	6	11	26	28	33
A.I.S	26	10	2	14	33	35	32
Essendon Royals (R)	26	8	7	11	30	35	31
Sunshine Georgies(R)	26	7	8	11	23	38	29
Kingston City (R)	26	7	6	13	32	38	27
Springvale White Eagles (R)	26	1	2	23	17	77	5

TOP SIX SERIES
Week 1
ELIMINATION FINAL 2

Altona Magic 0
Oakleigh Cannon 1

ELIMINATION FINAL 1

Whittlesea Zebras 2
Green Gully Cavaliers 1

QUALIFYING FINAL

Preston Lions 1
Melbourne Knights

Week 2
Major Semi-Final

Whittlesea Zebras 2
Preston Lions 1
(Zebras into Grand Final,
Lions into Preliminary Final)

Minor Semi-Final

Melbourne Knights 1
Oakleigh Cannons 0
(Knights into Preliminary Final,
Cannons eliminated)

Week 3
Preliminary Final

Preston Lions 2
Melbourne Knights 1
Sunday 30th September
(Winner into Grand Final,
loser eliminated)

WEEK 4
Grand Final

Whittlesea Zebras 1
Preston Lions 3

Champions

Preston Lions


THE TOP MARKSMEN

Player, Club	Games	Goals
Masi, Esala Oakleigh Cannons FC	26	15
Curcija, Michael Altona Magic SC	27	12
Nilo, Juan Oakleigh Cannons FC	28	12
Petrovski, Zoran Preston Lions SC	19	11
Diac, Ricky South Melbourne FC	22	10
Georgioski, Blaze Preston Lions SC	22	10
Lagana, Frankie M Essendon Royals SC	25	10
Vulic, Antun Kingston City FC	26	10
Armenian, Hamlet Whittlesea Zebras FC	28	9
Tsiorlas, Mark Fawkner Blues SC	25	9
Nikolic, Joel Green Gully Cavaliers SC	24	8
Pelikan, Anthony Melbourne Knights SC	18	8
Apostolikas, Taxiarchis Whittlesea Zebras FC	16	7
Becvinovski, Saso Altona Magic SC	27	7
Caldwell, Nathan South Melbourne FC	24	7
Chillico, Ricky Fawkner Blues SC	23	7



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FOXTEL CUP VPL CHAMPIONS 2007



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UNDER 21 FOXTTEL CUP CHAMPIONS 2007



Top row : Fedil Murtdi (coach), Brian Chesson, Mario Ledinjak, Adam Zila, Vlado Juric, Milan Batur, Zehinir Vranjic, Ryan Filipovic, Aaron Muziferovic, Denis Ukolovski, Robert Legator, Sino Korcog (team manager).

Bottom row : Marjo Boenjak, Lahn Cannell, George Chennou, Anto Raspudic, Danir Marusic, Arden Zahra, Rnor Murtdi.



FOXTTEL CUP WPL CHAMPIONS 2007



HEIDELBERG UNITED WFC

THAT WAS THE SEASON THAT WAS...

APRIL

Goal! Weekly belatedly embarks on its third season and rolls off the press in time to cover Round 7 of the Victorian Premier League.

The competition is now called the Foxtel Cup and the sponsorship is reportedly worth \$55,000 – a small dip from the \$200,000 previous contributor, Vodafone, paid for the naming rights of the league.

In previous months the FFV has also seen the dubious exit of its CEO, Tony Pignata. Tony resigned just days prior to Christmas and a brief statement issued instructs that no further correspondence will be taken on the matter. Mark Rendell makes the move across to the Darebin offices after 25 years with the Lawn Bowls Association, and is appointed as Tony's successor.

The kick-off to the competition experienced its own delay due to the drought affecting Victoria and after the State Government imposed water restrictions across the state. Clubs in all divisions experience trying times as the condition of pitches deteriorate and training facilities become strained. Some clubs are forced to share venues in a bid to combat the situation. Many pitches provide for difficult playing surfaces and players complain of the hardness of the pitches as playing standards noticeably drop.

its Round 6 Foxtel Cup clash at Bob Jane with Melbourne Knights after the home side failed to comply with various security arrangements. The points go to the Knights with a 0-3 scoreline.

Matilda captain, Cheryl Salisbury, becomes the first Australian to score for a FIFA World XI when she nets against China in a match played prior to the draw for the 2007 Women's World Cup. China won the match 3-2 with a goal in the final minute.

The A-league releases its fixtures for Version III with a new name on the list. Poor showing, both on and off the field, sees the New Zealand Knights as the first franchise to go under. Wellington Phoenix is the new improved Kiwi version with former All White international, Ricki Herbert, as the coach and Tony Pignata as its CEO.

In overseas news, Inter Milan takes out its 15th Scudetto after putting together a record 17 game unbeaten streak. Celtic takes out its second successive SPL crown after Japanese star, Nakamura, clinches victory with a last minute goal in the 2-1 win over Kilmarnock. Heading the Kilmarnock attack is Cranbourne's most famous Soccerroo, Scott McDonald, who later signs for the champions during the off-season and makes his Celtic-mad dad



Even a 3 point penalty wasn't enough to stop the Preston Lions from steamrolling the opposition to take out this year's Foxtel Cup honours.

Eagles coach Phil Stubbins is appointed as the new assistant coach to Aurelio Vidmar at Adelaide United. With the Eagles soaring up to 3rd spot Stubbins agrees to see out his duties as Kevin Bartlett Reserve for another 4 games before a replacement is sorted by the club.

The loss by the Cannons allows Altona Magic to take over as the new leader of the Foxtel Cup after beating Essendon Royals 3-2. reigning champion, south Melbourne, finds itself in unfamiliar territory as it occupies one of the four relegation spots along with the Zebras, White Eagles and Suburbs.

The coaching carousel continues in the VPL when Joe Montemurro resigns from his post at the Sunshine Georgies and is replaced shortly afterwards by one of the Chaplin Reserve's favourite sons, John Markovski. "Jonesy's" career goes full circle after beginning his illustrious playing career as a 16 year old sensation debuting for the Georgies in the old NSL.

The FFV enters the final stages of groundbreaking and historical reform which dramatically changes the way the FFV Board of Directors are elected and the way the games is governed.

Australia's maiden voyage into Asian Champions League football comes to an end after Adelaide United and Sydney FC succumb in the group stages. Sydney's intern coach Branko Culina does enough to please the bigwigs and gets the nod as Terry Butcher's successor in the Harbour City.

The mad month of May begins to take shape as Manchester United wraps up the EPL championship a week early and the trophy moves from Stamford Bridge to Old Trafford. Chelsea exacts some revenge by taking out the FA Cup with a painful 1-0 triumph over the newly crowned English champions.

Meanwhile, in the European Champions League, AC Milan exorcises its demons from the epic Istanbul Final by defeating Liverpool by 2-1.

The scramble to beat the transfer deadline in the VPL sees some big moves take place. The Melbourne Knights pick up the exciting duo of Anthony Pelikan from the Cannons

and Daniel Visevic from Richmond Eagles. The Cannons also release Stuart Webster to the Eagles, while The Zebras sign Tex Apostolakis from Altona East and Kristan Rees from Adelaide United. Lukas Glavas joins Heidelberg United from Perth Glory.

The coaching merry-go-round gathers steam in the VPL as Doug Hodgson quits Heidelberg United and is replaced by George Katsakis. With only 1 win from 11 games Zoran Trajceviski does the same over at Springvale White Eagles.

The AIS inflict a surprise 2-0 home defeat over Oakleigh and it's Green Gully's turn to take over at the top of the Foxtel Cup standings when it beat Springvale White Eagles by the same score. After 12 rounds the Royals are now in 3rd place and the Zebras and South Melbourne have hoisted themselves out of the relegation zone at the expense of Kingston City and the Sunshine Georgies.

JUNE

A new look Soccerroos, post-Hiddink, loses to Uruguay for the first time on Australian soil by 1-2. A horror blunder by debutant keeper Brad Jones gifts Uruguay some revenge for their 2005 world Cup Qualifying loss.

Former Sydney Olympic and St George player, Leon Gardikiotis, answers the SOS from the struggling White Eagles and takes charge of the team sitting bottom of the ladder. He lasts four games before handing in his resignation after wages could not be met.

Meanwhile in the State League First Division, Andy O'Dell is sensationally sacked by promotion chasing Coburg United and Joe Montemurro takes over at the helm.

In one of the best games seen at VPL level in recent years, Preston Lions claw their way back from 0-2 down to beat league leaders, Green Gully, 3-2, and wrestle top-spot off the Cavaliers in the process.

In more transfer news, Soccerroo star striker and former Melbourne Knight, Mark Viduka, signs for Newcastle United.



Argentina gave Graham Arnold his send off at a packed MCG.

GW picks up the action with Oakleigh Cannons leading the way thus far on 15 points, opening a four point gap from nearest challenger Preston Lions. The Lions of course, are carrying a three point penalty for the new season. Essendon Royals are in 4th spot, Whittlesea zebras are second last and one place behind Springvale White Eagles, while Western Suburbs have yet to win a match and hold up the rest of the table.

The FFV forces South Melbourne to forfeit

a very happy man indeed.

The ACCC begins an investigation into the FFV's Licensing Apparel Program and invites clubs to provide submissions. The objective of the investigation is to determine whether the program is of an anti-competitive nature that reduces choice between clubs and apparel manufacturers.

MAY

In the same week his side thumps league leaders Oakleigh Cannons 4-1, Richmond



Nearly 8,000 turned out to watch Victory demolish South 5-1.

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Year in Review 2007

Preston Lions keeper, Lou Acevski, bids farewell to the Conner Reserve faithful and signs for Czechoslovakia's FK Siad Most.

Melbourne Victory continues to prepare for its A-league title defence with a series of pre-season hit-outs against local competition. Over 2,000 cram into Kevin Bartlett Reserve

Oman outfit. Tim Cahill saves Aussie blushes by coming off the bench and scoring a late equaliser.

Michael Michalakopoulos cites family reasons and becomes the sixth coaching casualty of the year after resigning from the Whittlesea Zebras. He is replaced by former 1974 World World Cup Soccerroo, Peter

Blues and serial relegation coach, Vlado Vanis, takes charge to steer Fawkner to safety.

After 22 rounds in the VPL, Springvale White Eagles have only won one match and cop its second 7-0 hiding of the season - this time to Western Suburbs. Preston have pulled 3 points clear, whilst six teams are involved in a realistic relegation battle. The Zebras are now firmly in the Top Six and into second place.

In South Australia, Damian Mori's Adelaide City completes a domestic double when it comfortably takes out the Best Premier League and Cup final.

Still in SA, Phil Stubbins can add another honour to the coaching CV when Adelaide United takes out the Pre-Season Cup for the second year in a row, beating Perth Glory in the final.

The A-league kicks-off Version III and Melbourne Victory opens its title defence with a dramatic 2-2 draw away to Wellington Phoenix. The Phoenix rattle the Champions, overturning a two goal deficit with 10 minutes left on the clock in front of a record New Zealand crowd of 14,421.

SEPTEMBER

Preston Lions claim the VPL Minor premiership with a game to spare after a 2-1 home defeat of fellow title aspirants, Green Gully Cavaliers.

have to fight it out against each other on the last day to see which team will fill the fourth and final spot.

Richmond Eagles trounce the Sunshine Georgies by a whopping 8-0 to save their VPL skin at the Georgies' expense. The Eagles then sack coach, Doug Hodgson, the very next day.

Frankston Pines will make a quick return to the VPL after clinching the State League First Division, with Coburg United taking out the runners-up place. Brunswick City, Casey Comets, North Geelong Warriors and Port Melbourne Sharks are all relegated.

In the WPL, Heidelberg United wins the Minor Premiership with defending champs, Box Hill Inter, finishing second. Ashburton, Eltham North and Sandringham make up the rest of the Top Five. University of Melbourne and the WVSA are relegated. South Melbourne and GSL will be the replacements after winning promotion from Division One.

Floreat Athena secures its first title since 1997 after clinching the Football West Championship.

Astar studied Argentina, featuring Messi, Tevez and Heinz and Co. visit Australian shores and defeat the Socceroos by 1-0 in front of over 70,000 at the MCG. The match signals the end of Graham Arnold's tenure as Head Coach, who will now be replaced by Dick Advocaat.

to get a glimpse of the Australian champions, featuring new signing Ljube Milicevic, beat Richmond Eagles 1-0.

The new grandstand at Jack Edwards Reserve then gets a serious work-out as nearly 4,500 brave the cold to watch an entertaining 3-3 draw between Oakleigh Cannons and Melbourne Victory.

Finally, touted as the clash between "Old Soccer and New Football", almost 8,000 fans turn out to witness the friendly between Melbourne Victory and South Melbourne. "New Football" wins the match 5-1 and the flare count hands down.

Melbourne Victory captures the Mayor's Cup by downing Tianjin Teda on penalties after the match finished 1-1 in China.

JULY

The Socceroos commence its assault on the Asia Cup with a 1-1 draw against Oman. The highly rated Australians make a nervous start to the campaign and struggle find a rhythm against a physical



Third string Georgies keeper, Michael Fiarenza, is thrown in the deep end as his team lose 8-0 on the last day of the season and are relegated.

Ollerton.

Preston Lions still hold onto top spot in the Foxtel Cup closely followed by the Cannons, Cavaliers, Magic, Knights and then South. The Royals have now slipped to mid-table along with Richmond. Only six points separate the bottom four and the top six. After 20 rounds the bottom four are Fawkner Blues, Georgies, Kingston City and a now distant White Eagles.

The Aussie Asia Cup campaign is close to derailing as eventual winners, Iraq, completely outplay and outsmart the Socceroos by 3-1. Heroics in goal by Mark Schwarzer keeps the scoreline somewhat respectable. Rumours are rife that the Soccerroo camp, under coach Graham Arnold, is about to hit the self destruct button.

A timely two goals by Mark Viduka inspires Australia to a 4-0 final Asia Cup group game against co-host Thailand. The Socceroos progress to the Quarter Finals, where it bows out to Japan in a rematch of last year's enthralling World Cup tie. This time around the Japanese advanced 4-3 on penalties after the scores were locked 1-1 after full-time. In the post match interview Graham Arnold immediately questions the commitment of some of his players.

South Melbourne end six hours of playing football without scoring when it emphatically trounces Oakleigh Cannons 5-2. Ricky Diaco scores a contender for goal of the year with a superbly taken free-kick, which hits the underside of the bar and leaving keeper Michael Turnball clutching at thin air.

AUGUST

Blacktown Demons are crowned the NSW Premier League Champions after defeating Bankstown City 3-1 in one of the most gripping Grand Finals witnessed in years.

Tony Dunkerley is elected as the new FFV President and replaces the outgoing Vasko Stojcevski. Chris Nikou, Nick Monteleone, Jamie Parsons, Mark Trajcevski and Bart Harrold are directors also elected.

In a prelude to this year's Foxtel Cup Grand Final, Preston Lions and Whittlesea Zebras play out a 1-1 draw and share the honours in the newly formed Northern Community Cup.

Luciano Trani is shown the door at Fawkner



Recoba: One of the few South Americans who graced Aussie shores this year and actually played some decent football.

South Melbourne loses 3-0 away to Western Suburbs and effectively surrenders its VPL title.

The rest of the Top Six is also determined heading into the last round of the season. Joining the Lions for Finals football is the Melbourne Knights, Whittlesea Zebras, Altona Magic, Oakleigh Cannons and Green Gully Cavaliers.

The relegation issue is also nearly complete; Springvale White Eagles, Kingston City and Essendon Royals surrender their VPL status, whilst the Sunshine Georgies and Richmond

OCTOBER

Western Suburbs' Terry Antoniadis and Heidelberg United's Belinda Panella win the Gold Medal for the Best and Fairest for 2007. Preston's Tony Sterjovski is the media's choice and is awarded the Bill Fleming Medal.

Preston Lions capture its first Victorian Championship since 2002 by defeating Whittlesea Zebras by 3-1.

Heidelberg United wins the WPL by downing Box Hill Inter 3-2.

By Nic Townsend



Scots continue to excel in Europe

It has been another incredible week for Scottish football, with three clubs upsetting the odds and winning matches in Europe against much fancied opponents.

It started on Tuesday night with Rangers travelling to France to play seasoned Champions League side Lyon. Many travelling fans would probably have been happy with a draw against a side that has previously beaten the likes of Real Madrid when playing at home. Instead Rangers won 3-0, in what is one of the greatest European wins in the club's history. Lyon dominated possession, and were very unlucky not to score, but in the end Rangers' solid defence and ability to make the most of their chances with clinical finishing means they prevailed with an impressive scoreline.

Rangers now boast two wins from two games, for a total of six points. Ten points is often enough to qualify for the knock out stages, so they now have a very realistic chance of progressing.

The following night Celtic played host to the current European champions AC Milan. As with Lyon the night before Milan dominated possession. But again a well-organised Celtic side subdued Milan's stars and ensured they couldn't impose themselves. The Bhoys prevailed 2-1 with a 90th minute goal from Socceroo Scott McDonald.

While their away record is still poor, Celtic at home is fast earning a reputation as a daunting prospect. Last season, they didn't

even concede a goal when playing at Celtic Park. Of the 13 Champions League group stage matches that have been played there, only Barcelona have managed to leave with a win. Juventus, Manchester United, Lyon, Porto, Benfica and now Milan have all failed.

And to round the week off, Aberdeen earned a spot in the UEFA Cup group stages after beating Dnipro. The Ukrainians threw everything at the Dons, and even hit the bar three times in the second half. But Aberdeen stood firm and held on to a 1-1 draw, which put them through on away goals.

In his three years at Pittodrie, manager Jimmy Calderwood has had to build his squad on a very limited budget, overseeing steady improvement with every season. While still a long way from the feats of Alex Fergusson's Aberdeen in the early 1980s, the win still comes as a tremendous reward for his efforts.

Overall, the three famous victories will only add to Scotland's co-efficient, and next season could even see the SPL allocated another UEFA Cup spot.

The only sore point in the Scottish football this week was the much-publicised incident between Dida and a stray Celtic fan. After Scott McDonald scored the winning goal, a fan ran onto the pitch, taunted an angry Dida, before tapping him on the shoulder and running back to the stands. Dida initially gave chase but then after a few strides suddenly collapsed and refused to get

up. He was subsequently carried off the pitch on a stretcher with an ice pack to his head, while Milan substituted him for their reserve keeper Zeljko Kalac.

UEFA have already announced they are investigating the incident, and will make a decision at their next disciplinary meeting on October 11.

In the meantime Celtic will have to sweat it out hoping that their efforts on Wednesday night were not in vain.

To their credit Milan have already stated they will not issue an official complaint or push to get the result overturned. However UEFA do have a track record of dispensing harsh penalties for pitch invasions. The fact that the fan in question barely touched Dida, and it is obvious that he completely overreacted, will mean little: No one should have been able to get onto the pitch in the first place.

Some of the harsher penalties include an overturning of the result, reduction in points, or being forced to play remaining European ties behind closed doors. When a Danish fan attacked the referee in an international against Sweden earlier this year, Sweden were awarded an automatic 3-0 win, and Denmark were forced to play their next two matches at neutral venues. Although in another case of a UEFA Cup match at Ibrox last November, a protester attempted to handcuff themselves to the goal posts. Rangers were subsequently fined £4000.

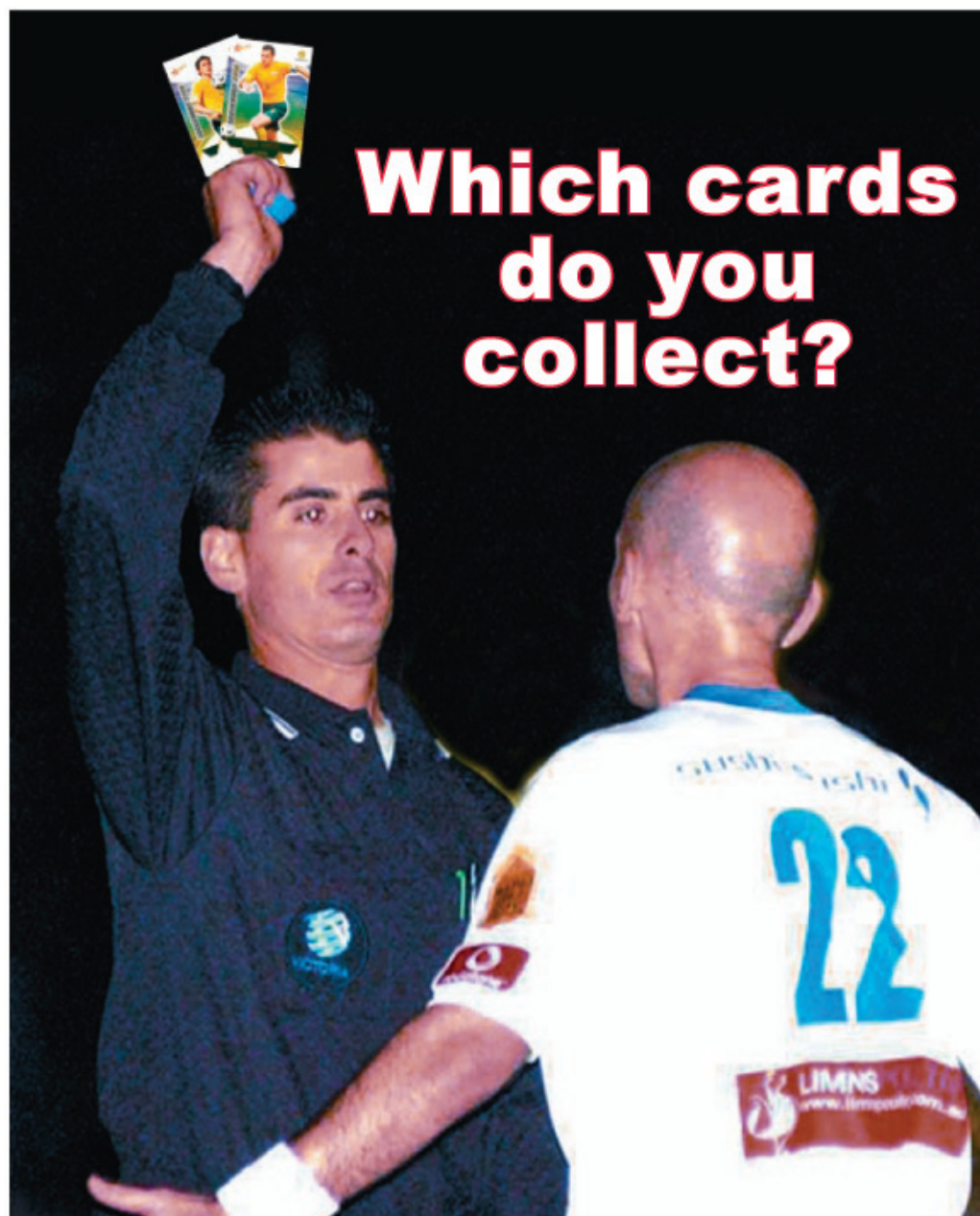
If Celtic can escape with a similar punishment

and avoid Denmark's fate, they'll be happy.

UEFA have also asked Milan for an explanation for Dida's substitution, indicated that the Brazilian keeper may also be penalised. It is interesting to note that match officials refused to add on injury time while Dida was carted off, suggesting doubts about the validity of his 'injury'. Even in Italy, a country renowned for its cynicism, slyness, and melodramatic overreactions, Dida's antics have attracted a lot of criticism. In an online poll for Italian newspaper Gazzetta Dello Sport, 90% of voters believed that Dida should be banned by UEFA and disciplined by Milan.



Victoria's very own scoring sensation, Scott McDonald, showed his prowess in the Champions League during the week when he notched the winner against the current holders, AC Milan.



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QUEENSLAND
ROAR

2 - 1

WELLINGTON
PHOENIX

Courtesy FFA

YOUNGSTERS GET ROAR BACK ON TRACK

Queensland finally wins at home

Roar coach Frank Farina will have silenced some of his critics after goals from teenagers Michael Zullo and Robbie Kruse handed Queensland a deserved 2-1 win over the Wellington Phoenix in Brisbane.

The unheralded duo, thrown in by Farina for their first starts in Roar colours, capped fine individual performances with maiden goals apiece with Zullo, in particular, a constant thorn in Wellington's side.

The 18-year-old opened the scoring just four minutes into his full debut before supplying the cross for Kruse, who had also clipped the top of the crossbar with a 25m strike, to score his first league goal on his 19th birthday.

"We played extremely well and really at no time in the match were we under a great deal of pressure," Farina said afterwards.

"Opportune times to get goals I suppose ... but I was pleased with the way we played."

The Phoenix was positive in possession with Shane Smeltz, Michael Ferrante and Felipe taking every opportunity

to support Vaughan Coveny in attack but failed to create a meaningful chance before Smeltz scored a late consolation with the final kick of the game.

Coach Ricki Herbert said it was time his side stopped giving sides goal advantages having fallen behind in six of its seven outings this season.

"I think we were disappointing tonight really," Herbert said. "We didn't start the game well and I think for the first six games of the season we've been decent and we really didn't get cracking."

"The season can't be all about chasing games."

It was the exciting Zullo who bought a 12-458-strong crowd to life when he struck a sweet left-footed half-volley off the underside of the bar and past Phoenix goalkeeper Glen Moss after Wellington had failed to clear their lines from a long throw-in.

Already without Daniel, Wellington's hopes then nosedived when Felipe, the victim of a handful of crunching tackles one of which earned Marcinho a caution, was replaced by compatriot George

Paladini after limping off with a hamstring strain.

Queensland then added to its lead in first-half stoppage time while the visitors were down to 10 men with defender Steven O'Dor receiving treatment for a bloodied nose on the sidelines.

Making the most of the space in the Phoenix backline, Zullo floated in a perfectly weighted cross and an unmarked Kruse headed home past Moss.

The Wellington custodian palmed Marcinho's goalbound effort around the post as Queensland continued to attack while Reinaldo would have hoped to have done better after Zullo skipped around Jeremy Christie and provided a delightful cutback, the Brazilian missing the target with an open goal beckoning.

Kruse and Zullo departed to standing ovations as Farina looked to secure his first home win of the season and only his second victory at Suncorp in eight attempts since replacing Miron Bleiberg.

The New Zealanders enjoyed their brightest spell of the game from that point on but it was too little too late when the hard-

working former Brisbane Strikers forward Smeltz slid home via a deflection off Sasa Oggenovski deep into injury time.

Queensland Roar FC: 1.Liam REDDY (gk), 4.Craig MOORE (Captain), 5.Josh McCLOUGHAN, 7.Michael ZULLO (14.Ben GRIFFIN 73'), 11.REINALDO, 15.Matt McKAY, 16.Hyuk-Su SEO, 18.Danny TLATTO, 19.Sasa Oggenovski, 22.Robbie KRUSE (9.Simon LYNCH 55'), 23.MARCINHO (8.Massimo MURDOCCA 71').

Substitutes Not Used: 30.Griffin McMASTER (gk)

Yellow Cards: Marcinho 26', Michael Zullo 62', Reinaldo 90'.

Red Cards: Nil

Wellington Phoenix: 20.Glen MOSS (gk), 2.Jeremy CHRISTIE, 3.Tony LOCHHEAD, 5.Karl DODD, 7.Ross ALOISI (captain), 8.Vaughan COVENY (6.Tim BROWN 70'), 9.Shane SMELTZ, 10.Michael FERRANTE, 12.Richard JOHNSON, 14.Steven O'DOR (13.Steven OLD 46'), 21.Felipe (15.George PALADINI 40').

Substitutes Not Used: 1.Mark PASTON (gk).

Yellow Cards: Karl Dodd 87', Tony Lochhead 90+2'.

Red Cards: Nil



PERTH
GLORY

0 - 0

ADELAIDE
UNITED

Courtesy FFA

ADELAIDE JUMPS TO FOURTH AFTER DRAW

Adelaide United has surged into fourth spot on the table after holding on for an entertaining 0-0 draw against Perth Glory at Members Equity Stadium on Sunday.

The Glory enjoyed a glut of opportunities throughout the match but failed to produce the finishing touch, with Nikolai Topor-Stanley's 49th minute header, which struck the crossbar, the closest Perth came to scoring a goal.

But Adelaide, whose defence was under siege from the word go, also had chances to win the game, with Nathan Burns' wayward strike from point-blank range sure to haunt the United striker.

The point - and a superior goal difference - was enough for United to leapfrog Queensland, Sydney and Wellington into fourth position, although all four teams are tied on eight points apiece.

The Glory, meanwhile, remain anchored to the bottom of the table with just four points to its name and a run of 14 games without a win in the league.

Adelaide coach Aurelio Vidmar said he was disappointed with his side's lack-lustre effort.

"After our performance I'm satisfied with a point," he said after the match.

"From what we produced over the last four or five weeks, we weren't even at the races today."

"I thought our defence was quite solid. They had a few shots in front of goal but our boys were really desperate in throwing their bodies on the line and blocking a few shots."

Perth coach Ron Smith was disappointed not to pick up all three points but felt it was an improved effort from the Glory.

"To be honest with you I kicked a few chairs and tackled a few bean bags by the side of the bench there," he said with a laugh.

"The pleasing thing was we stuck to a bit of a game plan today. We were a bit unfortunate not to score a goal."

"Today I felt we got the balance right. We did take the game to them, we tried hard to win the game and I hope the fans out there can appreciate that."

Adelaide was forced to sit back and defend in the opening half as the Glory threw everything but the kitchen sink at the contest.

The visitors struggled for fluency and were lucky to survive a goal-mouth scramble in the 25th minute when Leo Bertos threaded through a dangerous pass from the edge of the box.

Just four minutes later Adelaide were again left biting their fingernails when a Jordan Simpson cross found an unattended

Bertos in the box, but the midfielder shot high.

Giant Adelaide defender Robert Cornthwaite sprayed a free header in the 35th minute in what was the visitors' best chance of the opening half, while both Topor-Stanley and Bertos wasted similar opportunities up the other end.

Perth was unlucky not to hit the lead four minutes after the restart when Topor-Stanley headed a wayward Bertos strike into the underside of the crossbar, with the ball rebounding back into play to the dismay of the 6252 fans.

Adelaide had the ball in the back of the net in the 57th minute but it was disallowed by referee Peter Green due to a blatant foul on Glory keeper Tando Velaphi, who was taken out while flying for a long ball.

The intensity from both sides was fantastic as the pace of the game lifted and Perth skipper Simon Colosimo made a match-saving tackle on Bruce Djite in the box after a defensive lapse by Jamie Coyne.

Burns should have put Adelaide ahead in the 70th minute when Travis Dodd's cross found him completely unmarked at the far post, but the striker's touch let him down as his hesitant strike from just six yards out and with only the keeper to beat stumbled wide of the target.

Adelaide keeper Daniel Beltrame did well to keep out a fantastic volley from James Robinson in the 76th minute, while Bertos and 75th-minute substitute Jamie Harnwell also went close.

The closing 10 minutes of the match was played at break-neck speed but, despite a number of openings, neither side was able to capitalise with the Glory forced to settle for its fourth scoreless draw of the season.

Perth Glory: 30.Tando VELAPHI (gk), 2.Nikolai TOPOR-STANLEY, 4.Simon COLOSIMO, 10.Billy CELESKI (16.Nick RIZZO 78'), 12.Leo BERTOS, 13.Nikita RUKAVYTSYA (5.Jamie HARNWELL 74'), 14.Jamie COYNE, 17.Jimmy DOWNEY, 21.James ROBINSON, 24.Jordan SIMPSON (15.Mitchell PRENTICE 67'), 25.Tyler SIMPSON,

Substitutes Not Used: 50.Tommi TOMICH (gk).

Yellow Cards: Nil

Red Cards: Nil

Adelaide United: 1.Daniel BELTRAME (gk), 2.Richie ALAGICH, 4.Angelo COSTANZO, 6.CASSIO, 8.Kristian SARKIES (7.Lucas PANTELIS 73'), 10.Nathan BURNS, 11.Bruce DJITE (17.Isyan ERDOGAN 73'), 13.Travis DODD (Captain), 15.Jonas SALLEY, 18.Robert CORNTHWAITE, 22.DIEGO.

Substitutes Not Used: 3.Milan SUSAK, 20.Robert BAJIC (gk).

Yellow Cards: Isyan Erdogan 86'.

Red Cards: Nil



MARINERS

1 - 1

NEWCASTLE
JETS

Courtesy FFA

MARINERS AND JETS SHARE POINTS

The Central Coast Mariners and the Newcastle Jets have battled out a 1-1 draw in a tense Hyundai A-League derby at Bluetongue Stadium in Gosford on Sunday afternoon.

Mariners midfielder Tom Pondeljak scored the first goal in the 62nd minute before Jets striker Mark Bridge equalised in the 82nd to snatch a point for the Jets in front of a crowd of 12,622.

The result keeps the Mariners three points clear of the Melbourne Victory at the top of the table while Newcastle are a point further back in third place.

Newcastle had the best of the early stages of the match. The first chance on goal came when Brazilian midfielder Denni put a couple of good balls through to Joel Griffiths in close proximity to goal in the 14th and 16th minutes. But on both occasions Mariners keeper Danny Vukovic defused both opportunities comfortably.

The Mariners' first chance came when Pondeljak put a shot on target but straight to Jets keeper Ante Covic in the 25th minute.

Striker Sasho Petrovski had the Mariners best first half chance when Damian Mori ran onto a long ball before crossing to Petrovski

who put it into the right side of the net.

The match came to life after the break and it was Pondeljak who proved Mariners coach Lawrie McKinna had pulled the right rein by giving the veteran midfielder his first start of the season.

Pondeljak collected the ball on his left foot before switching to his right to shoot into the right hand side of the net from 20m out.

With Qantas Socceroos squad member Dean Heffernan coming off the bench two minutes later the Mariners appeared to gain some ascendancy and Adam Kwasnik just missed extending the lead when he fired off to the right in the 73rd minute.

Despite being a goal down, Newcastle kept fighting and were rewarded with Bridge's 82nd minute goal.

It came when Adam D'Apuzzo earned a free kick after a yellow card offence by Andrew Clark.

D'Apuzzo's kick into the box produced a goalmouth scramble before Bridge scored off his second shot, brushing the hand of Clark on the way into the net.

Both teams battled hard in search for a late



winner, but to no avail.

Central Coast Mariners: 20.Danny VUKOVIC (gk), 6.Andre GUMPRECHT, 7.John HUTCHINSON (Captain), 10.Tom PONDELJAK, 15.Andrew CLARK, 16.Nigel BOOGAARD, 17.Matthew OSMAN, 19.Adam KWASNIK, 22.Sasho PETROVSKI (2.Matt SIMON 72'), 23.Mile JEDINAK, 24.Damian MORI (8.Dean HEFFERNAN 63').
Substitutes Not Used: 1.Matthew TROTT (gk), 12.Greg OWENS.
Yellow Cards: Andrew Clark 81'.
Red Cards: Nil

Newcastle Jets: 1.Ante COVIC (gk), 2.Adam GRIFFITHS (12.Paul KOHLER 63'), 3.Jade

NORTH (Captain), 5.Stuart MUSIALIK, 8.Matt THOMPSON, 9.Joel GRIFFITHS, 10.Denni (21.Mario JARDEL 72'), 13.Adam D'APUZZO, 14.Jobie WHEELHOUSE (17. Troy HEARFIELD 69'), 19.Mark BRIDGE, 27.Stephen LAYBUTT.
Substitutes Not Used: 20.Ben KENNEDY (GK).
Yellow Cards: Joel Griffiths 4', Matthew Thompson 40', Mark Bridge 69', Adam D'Apuzzo 77', Steve Laybutt 80', Paul Kohler 90+2'.
Red Cards: Nil

A-LEAGUE STANDINGS

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
1 Central Coast Mariners FC	7	4	2	1	8	3	5	14
2 Melbourne Victory FC	7	2	5	0	8	5	3	11
3 Newcastle Jets FC	7	2	4	1	6	5	1	10
4 Adelaide United FC	7	1	5	1	9	9	0	8
5 Wellington Phoenix FC	7	2	2	3	11	12	-1	8
6 Sydney FC	7	2	2	3	5	6	-1	8
7 Queensland Roar FC	7	2	2	3	7	9	-2	8
8 Perth Glory FC	7	0	4	3	2	7	-5	4

NEXT ROUND

Adelaide v Victory
Friday 12th Oct KO 7.30PM

Jets v Phoenix
Sunday 14th Oct KO 3PM

Glory V Sydney
Friday 12th Oct KO 8PM

Mariners v Roar
Sunday 14th Oct KO 5pm

TOP SCORERS

4- Bruce Djite (AU), Shane Smeltz (WP).
3- Sasho Petrovski (CCM).
2- Daniel Allsopp (MV), Alex Brosque (SFC), Nathan Burns (AU), Daniel (WP), Felipe (WP), Adam Kwasnik (CCM), Matt McKay (QR), Nik Mrdja (CCM), Kevin Muscat (MV), Archie Thompson (MV).
1- Richie Alagich (AU), Ross Aloisi (WP), Mark Bridge (NJ), Adam Casey (SFC), Adrian Caceres (MV), Billy Celeski (PG), Vaughan Coveny (WP), Diego (AU), Travis Dodd (AU), Adam Griffiths (NJ), Joel Griffiths (NJ), Robbie Kruse (QR), Jamie Harnwell (PG), Josh McLoughan (QR), Stuart Musialik (NJ), Sasa Ognenovski (QR), Patrick (SFC), Tom Pondeljak (CCM), Reinlaldo (QR), Ufuk Talay (SFC), Matt Thompson (NJ), Rodrigo Vargas (MV), Michael Zullo (QR).

ROUND 7 DETAILS

Queensland Roar 2 (Robbie Kruse 4', Michael Zullo 45+1')	Central Coast Mariners 1 (Tom Pondeljak 61')
Wellington Phoenix 1 (Shane Smeltz 90+3')	Newcastle Jets 1 (Mark Bridge 82')
Friday, 5 October 2007 Suncorp Stadium, Queensland Referee: Craig Zetter Assistant Referees: Jason Power & Denis Silk Fourth Official: Chris Beath Crowd: 12,458	Sunday, 7 October 2007 Bluetongue Stadium, Gosford Referee: Matthew Breeze Assistant Referees: Rodney Allen & Alex Glasgow Fourth Official: Strebre Delovski Crowd: 12,622
Sydney FC 0 Melbourne Victory 1 (Daniel Allsopp 81')	Perth Glory 0 Adelaide United 0
Saturday, 6 October 2007 Sydney Football Stadium, Sydney Referee: Mark Shield Assistant Referees: Nathan Gibson & Ben Wilson Fourth Official: James Lewis Crowd: 18,436	Sunday, 7 October 2007 Members Equity Stadium, Perth Referee: Peter Green Assistant Referees: Joe Fusari & Matthew Cheeseman Fourth Official: Steven Gregory Crowd: 6,252

Hyundai A-League 2007/08 – Crowd Figures

Club	Home Games	Ave.	Low	High	Total
Adelaide United	2	11,625	11,019	12,231	23,250
CC Mariners	2	9,163	9,052	9,274	18,326
Melbourne Victory	3	28,173	25,622	31,545	84,518
Newcastle Jets	3	12,650	11,179	13,627	37,950
Perth Glory	3	7,908	7,203	8,508	23,725
Queensland Roar	3	14,075	8,815	16,828	42,225
Sydney FC	4	14,484	11,491	18,457	57,936
Phoenix	4	12,038	10,127	14,421	48,153
Total	24	14,003	7,203	31,545	336,083